The expenditure works out to 22.79% of the approved outlay.

(b) Reasons for shortfall in expenditure are given below:—

Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC)

(i) Delay in receipt of claims for Belt Reconditioning Plant (BRP) in case of mine-II stage-II project.

(ii) Delay in claim in respect of foreign super vision charges, delay in supply of NLC's procurement items and delay in taking up of rejuvenation of spreaders work.

(iii) Delay in recommissioning of units III, V and VI of life extension programme of power plant.

(iv) Delay in awarding Letter of Award (LOA) for main plant packages of Thermal Power Station-I expansion project.

Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL)

In case of SCCL, the plan expenditure remained low due to non-procurement of equipment for overburden removal and longwall package as well as due to frequent strikes.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Proposal for infrastructure status to coal industry

472. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to give infrastructure status to the coal industry;

(b) if so, the status of this proposal;

(c) whether such a move will benefit the public in any way; and

(d) steps proposed to improve overall functioning of the coal industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government has not agreed to treat investments in coal sector as infrastructure activity. However, the Government has a proposal for extending concessions in order to make investment in coal sector more attractive, on the same lines as what is extended to infrastructure sector.

(d) The Government is considering to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to allow any Indian company to mine coal and lignite not only for captive consumption but also for sale. The basic objective behind this move is to augment investment in coal mining, increase availability of coal and to improve its efficiency. Thereby greater consumer satisfaction will ensue.

मध्य प्रदेश में साउथ ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लि० की कोयला खान में दुर्घटना

473. **श्री रामगोपाल यादव:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश स्थित साउथ ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लि० की कोयला खान में हुए हादसे में कितने लोगों की मृत्यु हुई तथा कितने लोग घायल हुए; और

(ख) कोयला खान में हुए हादसे का कारण क्या था तथा मृतक एवं घायलों के परिवारों/आश्रितों के कल्याण के लिए सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाये?

कोयला मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कान्ति सिंह): (क) और (ख) कोल इंडिया लि० (को०इं०लि०) द्वारा दी गई सूचना के अनुसार 1997 के दौरान (अक्तूबर, 1997 तक) साउथ ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लि० (सा०ई०को०लि०) की कोयला खानों में हुई दुर्घटना में मारे गए तथा घायल व्यक्तियों का कारण-वार ब्यौरा नीचे दर्शाया गया है:—

कारण	मृतकों की सं०	गंभीर रूप से घायलों की सं०
छत/दीवाल का गिरना	5	12
परिवहन मशीनरी	6	9
परिवहन मशीनरी से भिन्न मशीनरी	—	1